

The Valley COMIC N . E . W . S FREE



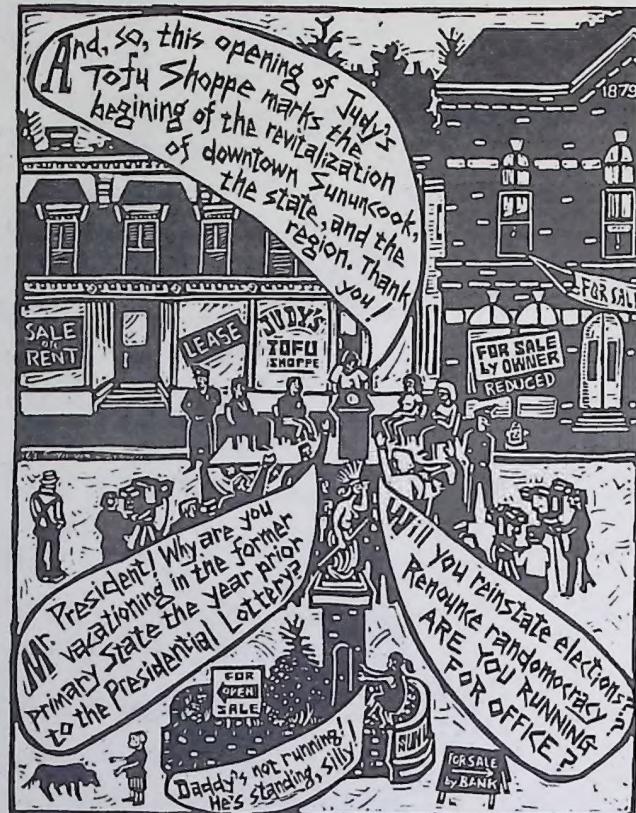
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
PRESIDENT BILL, JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD

STORIES:
SAY IT AIN'T SO, GEO.
MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU
FOOLS ON THE HILL
GETTING HARRASS IN GEAR

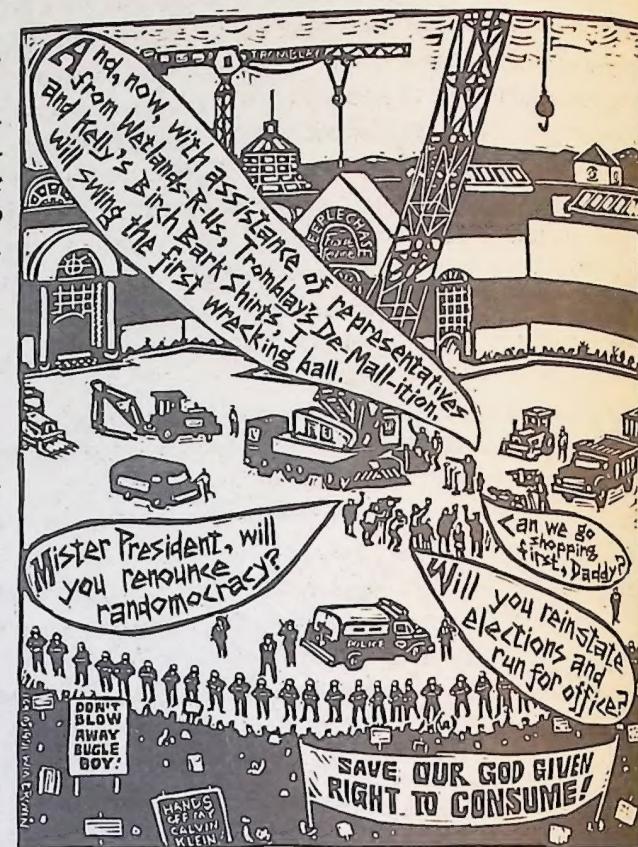


PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

I @PRESIDENT BILL promoted my ★★★ administration's economic-recovery program even while vacationing in the most beautiful state in the union, New Hampshire, which was in an economic lull due to my presidential predecessors' shortsighted policies. My administration's policies were long-range as well as environmentally sound and economically just. We discouraged parasitic tourism, and foreign or non-regional corporate development, while encouraging locally owned, ecological, non-sexist, non-racist, non-animal-exploitative, small-scale industry.



I @PRESIDENT BILL was appalled by ★★ New Hampshire's proliferation of malls, particularly the discount outlet complexes designed to attract hordes of tourists, whose dollars went not to the local economy, but to out-of-state mega-businesses. The malls' ubiquitous, bland architecture undermined regional character. And, their enclosed common space separated people from the natural environment and wasted energy. I immediately introduced a program to raze all malls and replace them with wetlands. The program was a boon to local economies and to environmental industries.

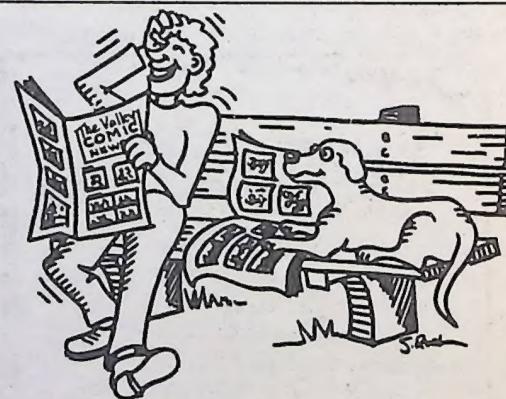


"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.



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REASONABLE RATES
REASONABLE PEOPLE.

PAGE THREE

It has been a difficult couple weeks for us at the VCN. After months and months of focussing on distant shores the domestic agenda came into clear focus and, boy, was it grim. What would you call a time period that contained the following: The re-opened Clarence Thomas hearings, the Thomas confirmation, the Gates confirmation, the veto and subsequent failure to override of the extended unemployment benefits bill, the chance that David Duke will become governor of one of the 50 states, the growing certainty among commentators that George Bush is unbeatable in '92, the evident impotence of the Democratic Party with its failure to take a stand and locally, the news that a homeless shelter in Northampton may have to stop admitting folks because there aren't enough volunteers to staff the place? We call it a nightmare. That's what it feels like. You know how in a nightmare everything is logical and concrete until you come to a realization that you want to try and change things, like leaving a party or returning to a room you left or attempting to get someone on the phone, yet even though each thing you do is the right thing to do, nevertheless, you can't ever make any progress and you lose your way and pretty soon you're scared out of your mind because everyone is in on the secret but you and you fear, not only for your sanity, but for your very existence.

Our next issue is our 50th and we'd like to open our pages up to local cartoonists and writers. So beginning with our golden edition we will feature at least one local yokel every two weeks (which is when the paper comes out). Please send us what you've got and we will feature at least one of you every time the VCN hits the stands. If you want your submission returned, include an SASE. Writers please limit your work to 500 words. Cartoonists remember that legibility and clarity count. We may have to shrink or enlarge your piece to fit the space. Our new mailing address is Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061.

As the Comic News grows so does the amount of work to be done. Beginning with the next issue Mike Chrisman will be taking over as Managing Editor while I (Izzy Gesell) will continue as Co-Publisher. In this way we will be better able to take care of the business AND the pleasure of this adventure.

The Valley Comic News
P.O.Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061 413-586-2274

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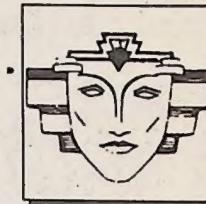
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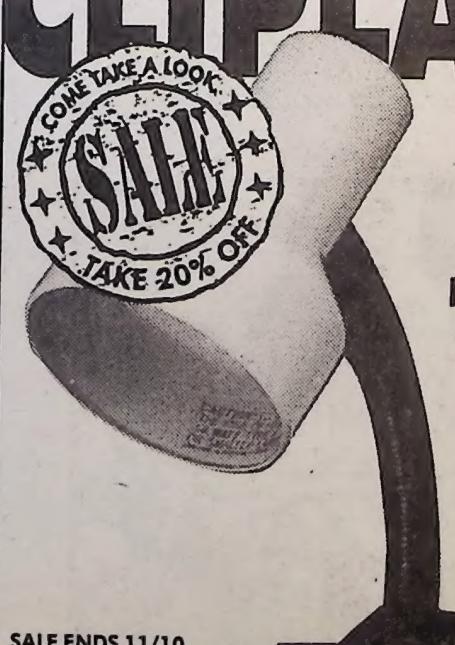


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A: ONE IS A SLIPPERY BOTTOM FEEDER:
THE OTHER IS...WAIT. IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?

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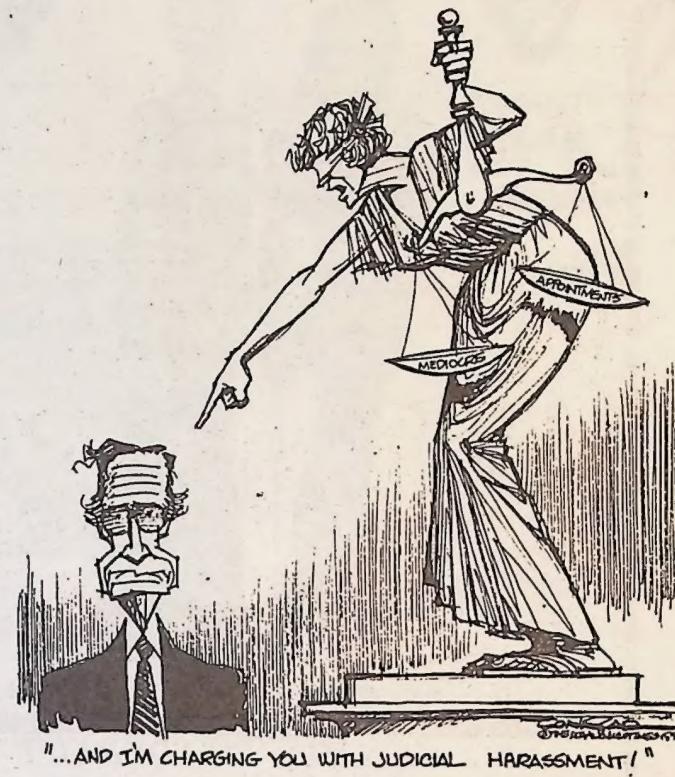
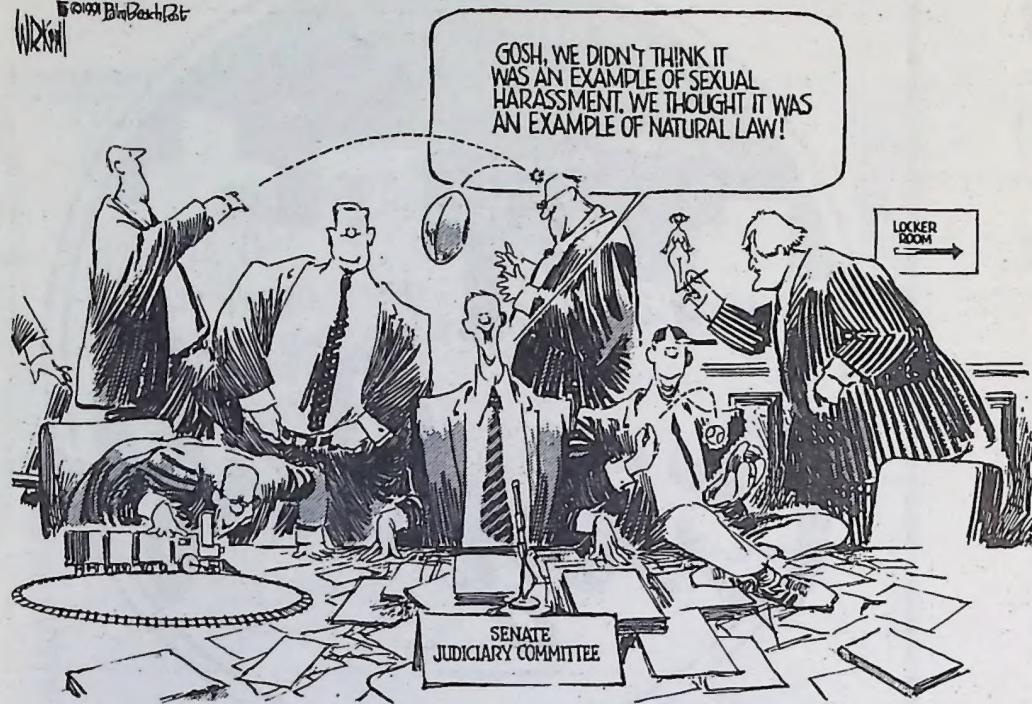
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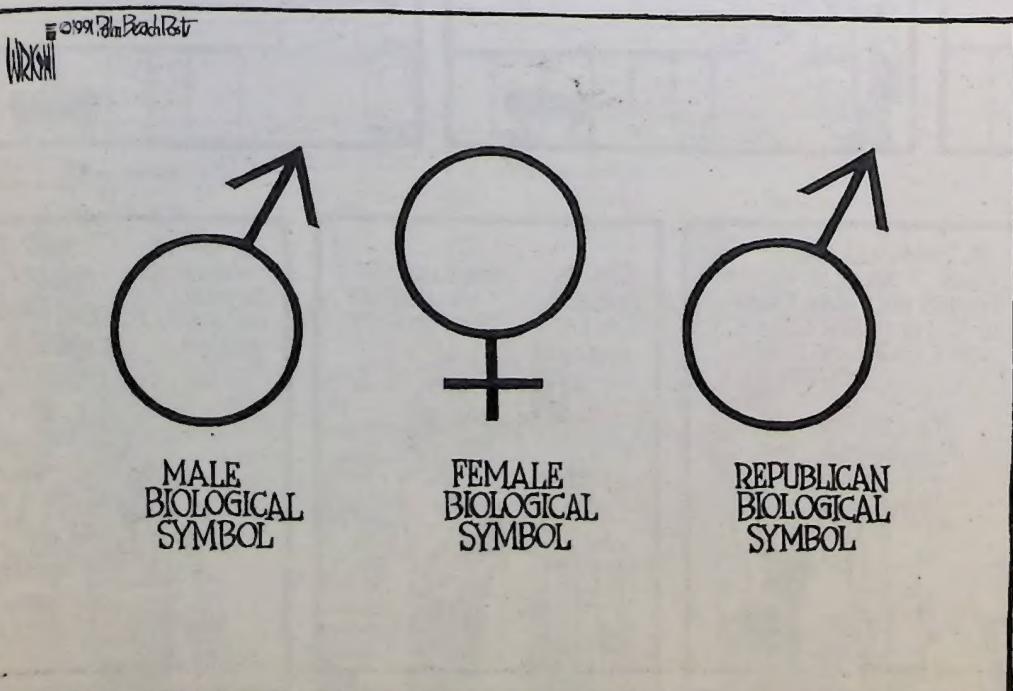
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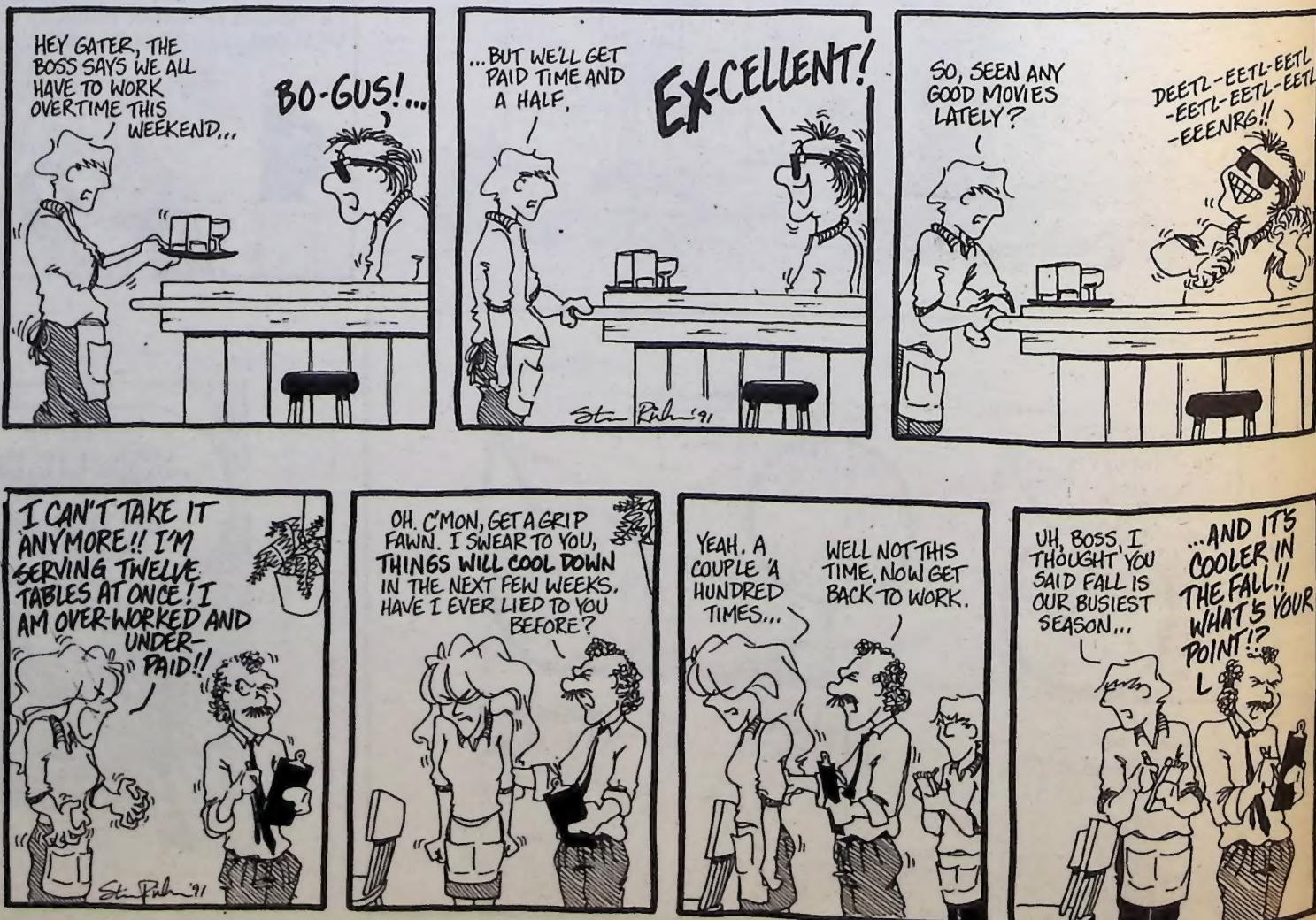
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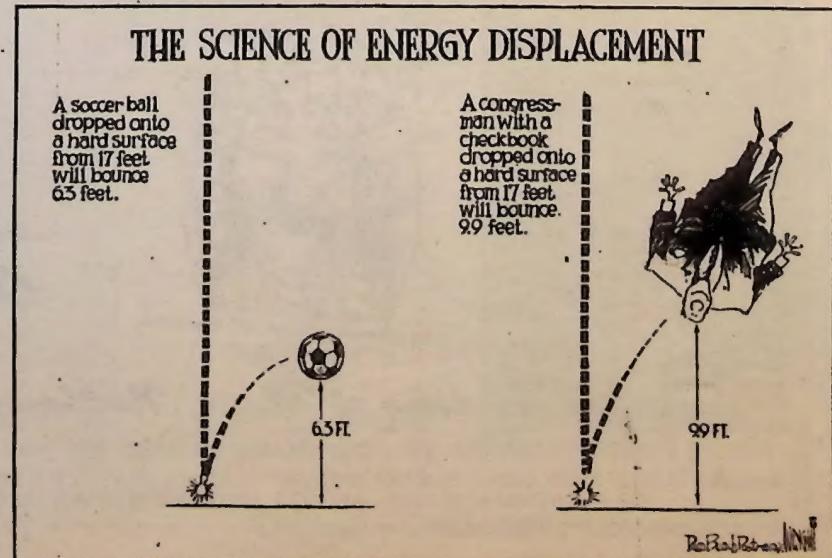
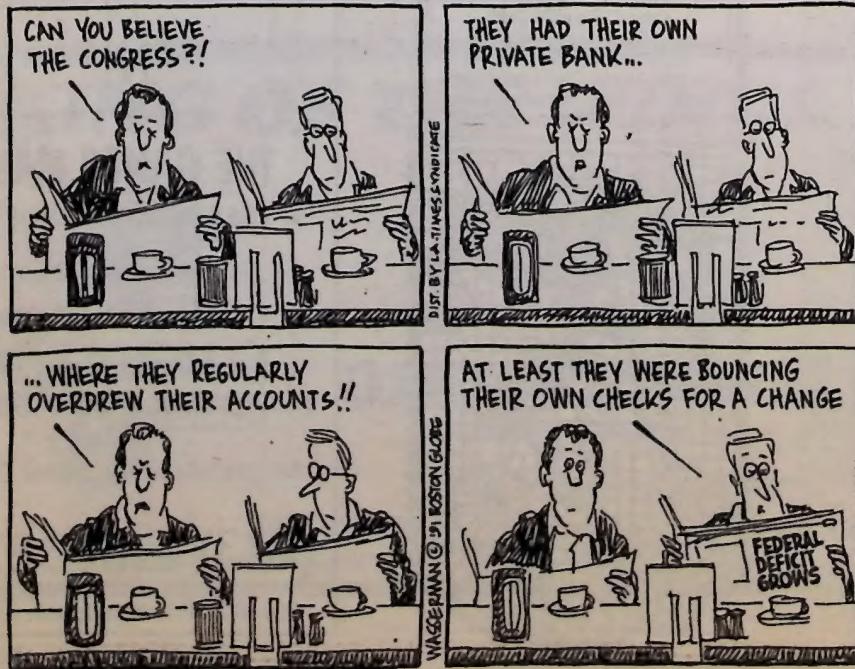
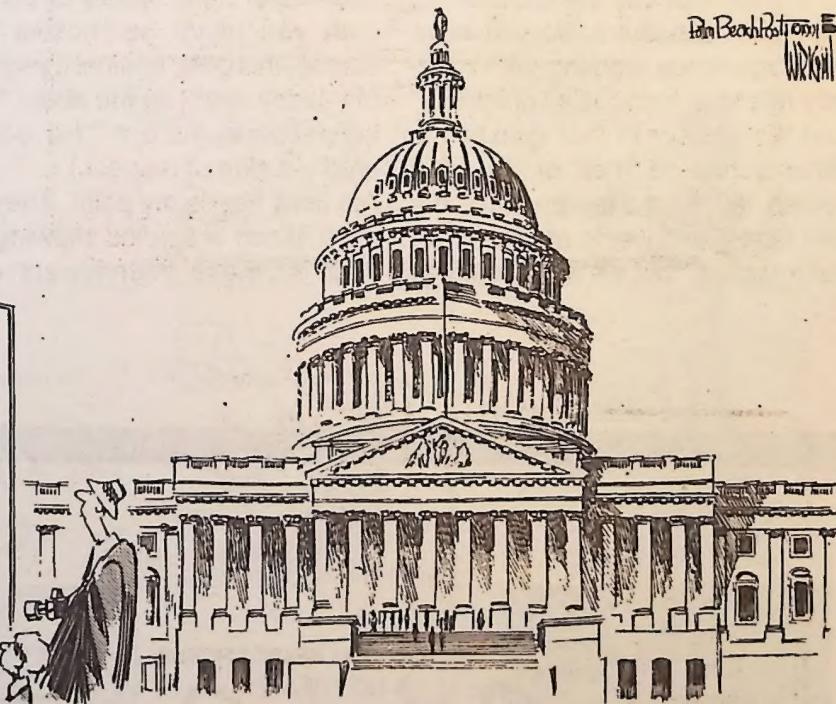
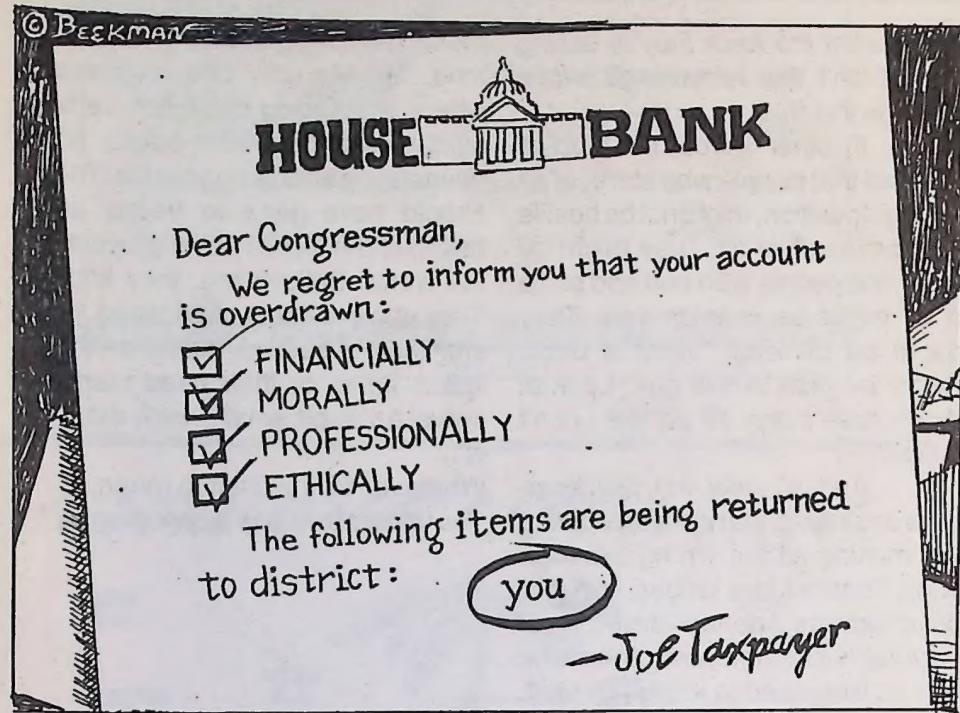
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THE BRASS & FERN

By Steve Riehm



FOOLS ON THE HILL



JOE BOB BRIGGS

Supposedly, when you go down to Wal-Mart to interview for a job stacking giant boxes of VCR's on a 12-foot-high shelf, you have to talk to these "expert-psychologists who can watch your body language and figure out whether or not you're a serial killer, or you spend a lot of money on 900 numbers, or you once stole all the wire hangers out of your ex-wife's closet. And then, if they decide you're a weirdo in some way or another, they give you the old "We have no openings at this time" or "Your skills don't fit our particular needs."

You understand how this works? These "professional interviewers" don't care what you say when you answer the questions. They only care *how* you say it.

So let's say the question is, "Now, Mr. Smathers, do you have any experience working with mentally retarded Indonesian children?" And the answer to that question is either gonna be "Yes" or "No." (Of course, there are a few people in my own family who would answer "I am not retarded," but we're not dealing

with actual *mutant* behavior here. I'm saving that for another column. Right now we're dealing with normal people.)

So let's say the answer is "No," but you *hesitate* for a minute before you say no, and you cross your feet, and you give the interviewer a little smile. If you do all these things, there are some of these interviewers who will believe you're *lying*, and that you actually *did* work with mentally retarded Indonesian children, but you *don't want anyone to find out!*

Another thing these people look for is signs of an "agreeable" personality—and usually what they mean is that, if you nod and smile a lot, you're agreeable, and if you sit there like a slug, or if you stare the interviewer right directly in the eye, then you might be "hostile." (Of course, this goes against everything my daddy ever told me about "looking people in the eye." He considered it a sign of respect.) Anyhow, here's my point. They just did a bunch of studies showing that most of these interviewers *don't*

know what the heck they're talking about! Isn't this refreshing? I *love* findings like this.

In other words, the studies showed that people who stare, or sit in a rigid position, might not be hostile or "dominant" at all. They might be *shy*. And people who nod and smile a lot might be conning you. They might be thinking, "What a bozo. Better be nice to this guy. Look at those *nose hairs*! I'll act like I don't notice."

And so now the psychologists are saying that the interviewers are making all the wrong assumptions. That includes judges, lawyers, psychiatrists, police detectives, polygraph operators, and others who sort of, like, *need* to know this stuff.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Hmmm, now that we know this, I wonder if I can go back and get that great *Toys R Us* sales clerk job where they said I was a paranoid schizophrenic who blames his problems on other people. After all, they were out to get me, and they ruined my life."

Actually, I could have saved

these psychologists a *whole* lot of time. There's only one profession where *misreading* these non-verbal signals can have immediate and devastating effects on your life. They should have gone to Vegas and talked to the top 20 poker players in the world. Believe me, they know. They *always* know. And when you see *their* eyebrows move, or their knees jump, or their head start to swivel a little bit, what it *really* means is ...

Whatever they *want* it to mean. You understand how this works now?

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221, or Fax him at 214-368-2310. **COPYRIGHT 1991 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.**

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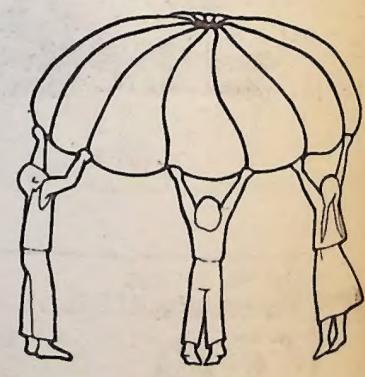
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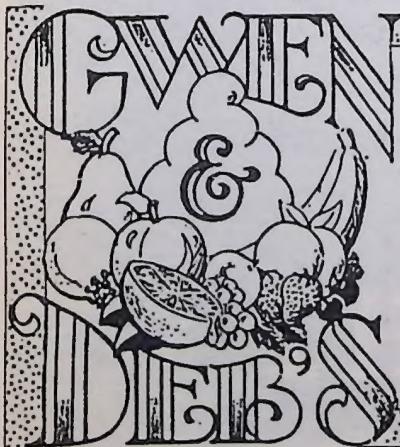
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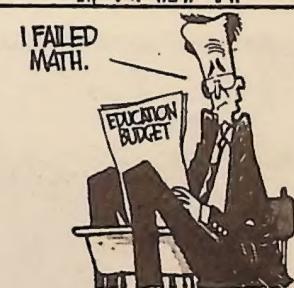
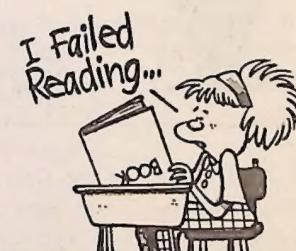
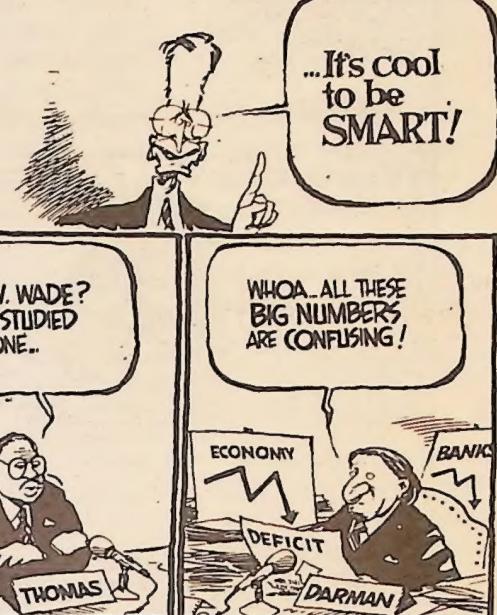
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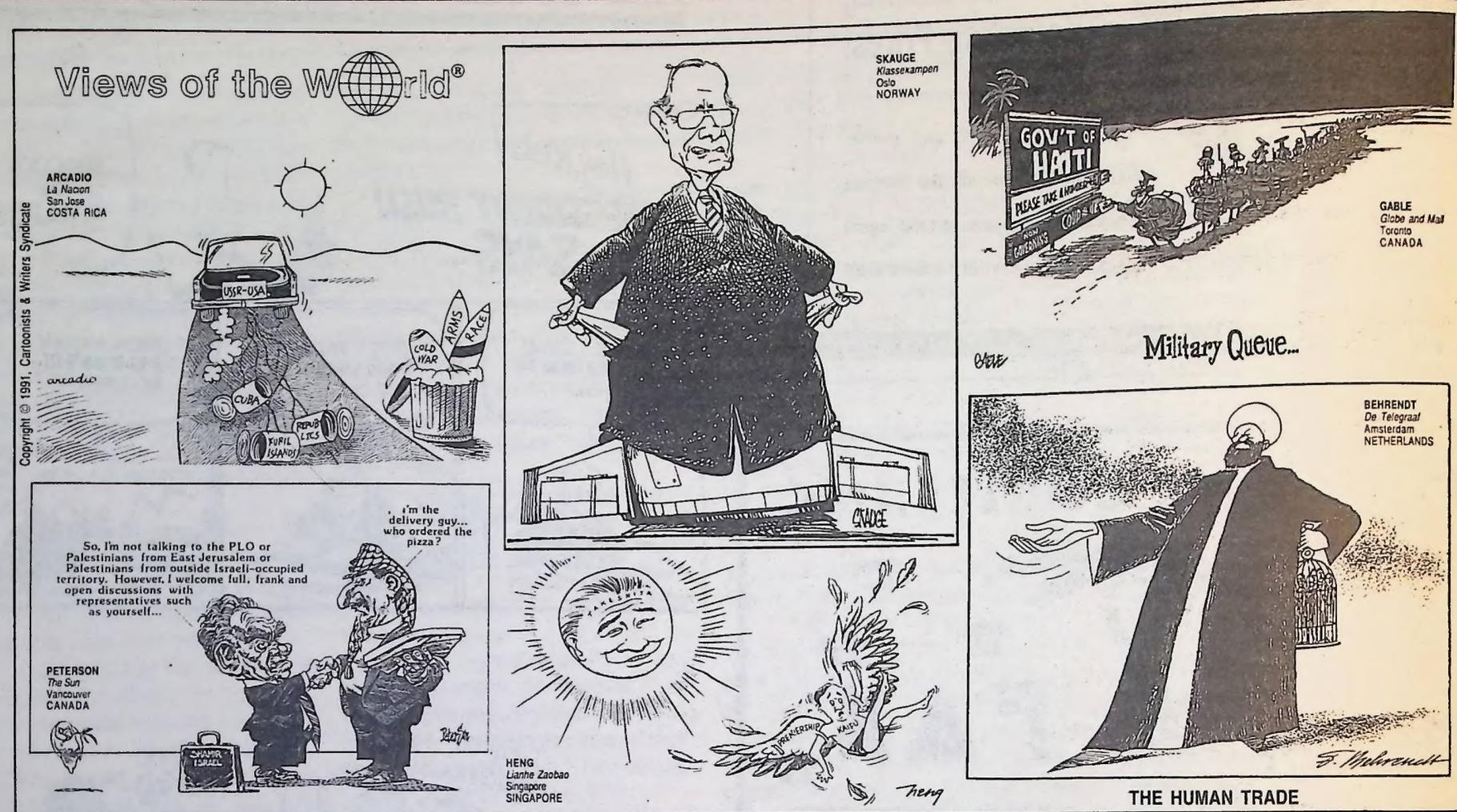
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Hey, Kids!
**PRESIDENT BUSH
SAYS...**



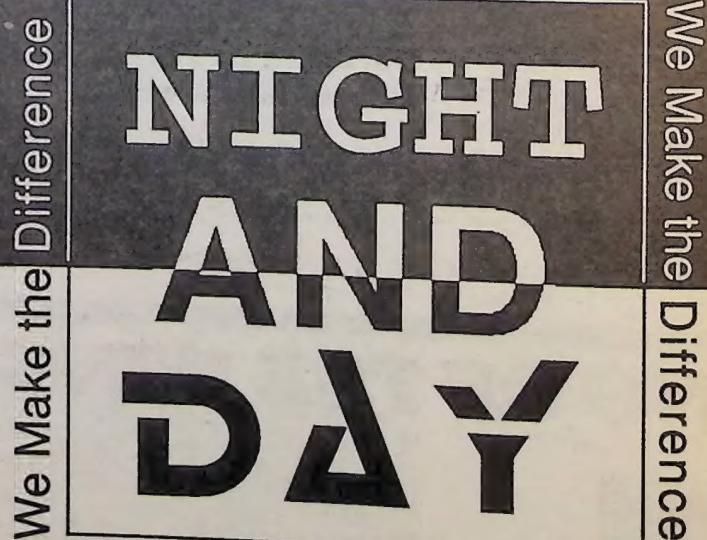
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L. M. Boyd

Q. One family member is always better than any other at keeping secrets. You said there's a clue to which one. What's the clue? A. Those who tell you the least about themselves are those best able to keep secrets about others.

Most striptease dancers were first-born children.

American crocodiles can bite, but not chew.

What distinguishes an eagle from a hawk and a hawk from a buzzard is size and not much else.

Court cases show a parent of several children may abuse one child only, but never the others. This tortuous targeting makes a tale as old as Cinderella. But psychologists say they still haven't got a perfect handle on it. It's invariably too complicated.

More tourists have visited Orlando, Fla. in just one week than have gone to Mecca in a whole year.

By weight, it's said, about half of all animal life is earthworms.

Q. Who invented lawns? A. English castle lords. They cut down trees so they could see attackers. Then planted grass and let the sheep crop away. If your home is your castle, your lawn mower is a latter day sheep.

A tarantula's burrow has silk wallpaper.

Q. A Persian Gulf veteran talked about "quat." What is it? A. A mildly narcotic leaf chewed by many in the Middle East. Boys start as early as age 10 correspondents say. They say further that countless men on the Arabian Peninsula put themselves into "quat" trances every afternoon.

Coyote hunters watch the sky for wheeling vultures.

Q. The Harvest moon is the full moon closest to the September equinox. But when is that full moon called the Wolf moon? A.

In January. Next full moon after that, in February usually, is the Snow Moon. March's full moon is called the Sap moon. Alludes to maple syrup.

A Russian author named Alexander Herzen said, "Life has taught me to think, but thinking has not taught me how to live."

Scientists know how to convert energy in the Gulf Stream's warm water into electricity. They say they could generate 75 times more power than all the other utility plants in the United States. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion—OTEC—is the name of that one.

Q. You said cockroaches hate light. When do they come out to feed? A.

About two hours after nightfall. They scurry for cover when you flip on the switch. Was reported once that a swift inventor rigged an electric switch timer to turn on lightbulbs in the kitchen at night for two out of every 10 minutes. In the belief that might so frustrate the roaches they'd leave.

Don't believe anything ever came of it.

The "pole" in "tadpole" means "head." If an immature frog looks like nothing more than a head in the water, it's a tadpole. If it wiggles, add "wog," the corruption of "wiggle," and call it a "polywog."

Don't call them liver spots, says a skin specialist. The liver has nothing to do with them.

Don't call them age spots. Age has nothing to do with them. They're caused by the sun. Unfortunately, sun spots already means something else.

Nobody accused of witchcraft was burned at the stake in Salem, Mass. in 1642, but 19 were hanged. "Were any stoned?" asks a client innocent of the nether culture. History records one man, Giles Corey, was crushed to death by stones cast on his body.

Don't forget, the only two-toed bird is the ostrich.

The Greek Philosopher Heraclitus compared time to flowing water and wrote: "You cannot step twice into the same river."

You've read how author Conan Doyle, eventually sick and tired of Sherlock Holmes, killed off the detective. But was forced by public demand to bring Sherlock back. L. Frank Baum felt the same about the "The Wizard of Oz." And likewise had to bring Oz back.

Q. Don't all the old masterpiece paintings show that fine system of cracks on their surfaces? A. No, but all forgeries of old masterpieces do.

Some meteorites contain diamonds.

Babies in England's Royal Family customarily get four names.

You only hear about one word out of every four spoken to you, if your pattern is typical. So say the language teachers.

That's how we listen, evidently. Our ears are like radio scanners. They reject far more than they log on to.

Writes a university sophomore: "Psychology is what you take while you're making up your mind."

Q. Don't some towns in this country actually require heads of households to keep a gun and ammunition at hand? A. A few have debated it.

The City Council of Kennesaw, Ga., once voted unanimously to make it mandatory there. The pattern dates back to the early militia. It's similar to the tradition in Switzerland.

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Volcanoes

 An explosion on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo hurled a cloud of steam and debris 15,000 feet into the sky north of Manila. Volcanic dust from previous eruptions has blocked 15 percent of the sunlight in parts of Japan, according to a study by the country's Central Meteorological Agency. The report said that the reduction in solar radiation from the Philippine volcano would continue for at least a year, but it should not damage crops or affect daily life.

A thin cloud of ash, from the eruption of Chilean volcano Mount Hudson two months ago, drifted northward 1,240 miles to the skies above Buenos Aires. Visibility in the Argentine capital was only slightly reduced, and authorities assured residents that the ash posed no health hazard.

Tropical Storms

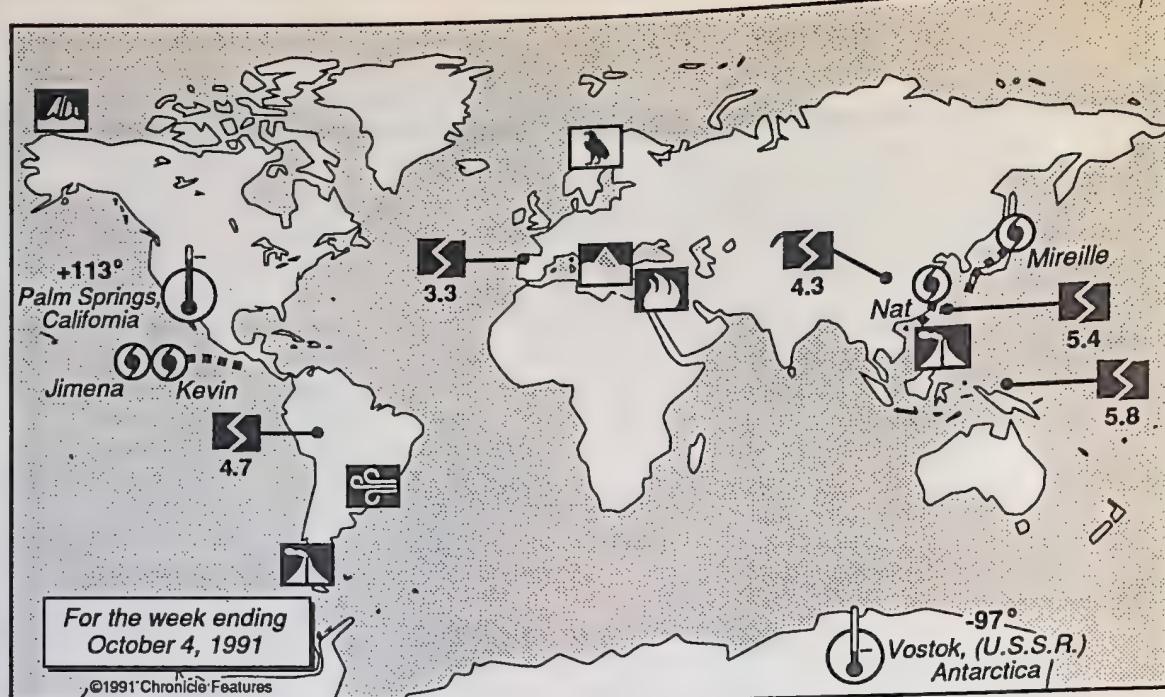
 High winds from typhoon Mireille, the worst to strike Japan in 20 years, killed 52 people and left widespread damage from Okinawa in the extreme south, to the northernmost main island of Hokkaido. The worst damage was inflicted on Aomori, Fukuoka, Akita, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, and Nagasaki prefectures.

Typhoon Nat re-formed in the warm Pacific waters off Hong Kong, then dissipated as it moved over the mountainous terrain of China's Fujian province.

In the eastern Pacific, hurricanes Jimena and Kevin moved harmlessly over open waters.

Wildfires

 Blazes believed to have been ignited by a Middle Eastern heat wave engulfed pine forests and cherry groves in northern Lebanon. Mosques blared appeals through loudspeakers atop minarets, urging people to help Syrian and Lebanese firefighters combat the fires.

**Earthquakes**

 An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale shook western China's Qinghai and Gansu provinces without causing significant damage. Earth movements were also felt in eastern Taiwan, Papua New Guinea and the Caroline Islands, northwestern Spain, and along the Peru-Brazil border.

Brief Disaster

 A freak storm that raged through parts of southeastern Brazil for only 10 minutes left at least 15 people dead and almost \$2 million in damage. The brief tempest did the most damage in Itu, 300 miles west of Rio de Janeiro.

Smog

 Air pollution reached such a high level in Athens that authorities banned automobiles from the Greek capital and

closed all of its schools. Teachers reported that more than two-thirds of their pupils showed signs of physical discomfort—some were even vomiting. Early autumn temperatures in the 90s combined with a lack of wind caused air quality to plummet so low that a local radio station described the city as a "gas chamber."

Melting Ice Station

 The U.S. Coast Guard said it had located an abandoned Soviet icebreaker research station north of Alaska, but warned that the ice was breaking up and hundreds of barrels of oil left behind had already fallen into arctic waters. Two dozen Soviet scientists abandoned Station North Pole 31 on July 24 when the ice became unstable. They left behind buildings and barrels of fuel on the drifting ice floe. The rate at which the iceberg is now breaking up makes the prospect of a planned Soviet salvage operation very unlikely.

Killer Eagles

 Lapp herders in northern Norway claim that huge eagles ate about 1,300 of their reindeer this year, and are demanding compensation from the government. The Oslo tabloid *Dagbladet* reported that officially only five eagles have been reported in the entire country, and suggested that if the eagles are as large as the herders claim, "they're going to have to start using an airport when they come in for a landing." Odd Ronningen, an environmental official, admitted that some herders exaggerate, but said that wild animals killed 25,000 of their reindeer in 1989. The Lapplanders inhabit the arctic regions of Scandinavia and rely on the reindeer, which are virtually their only resource.

Additional Sources: Hong Kong Royal Observatory, Argentine Meteorological Service, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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Gulf Update

A Saudi expert warned that the Persian Gulf will never recover from the massive oil spills that occurred during and after the Gulf War. "Pollution of the Gulf can no longer be considered a passing phase," according to Naser al-Saleh, manager of the Saudi Fisheries Company. "It has become a permanent feature of the region's life." His remarks were outlined in a paper to be presented to an international conference on the environment in Dubai later this month.

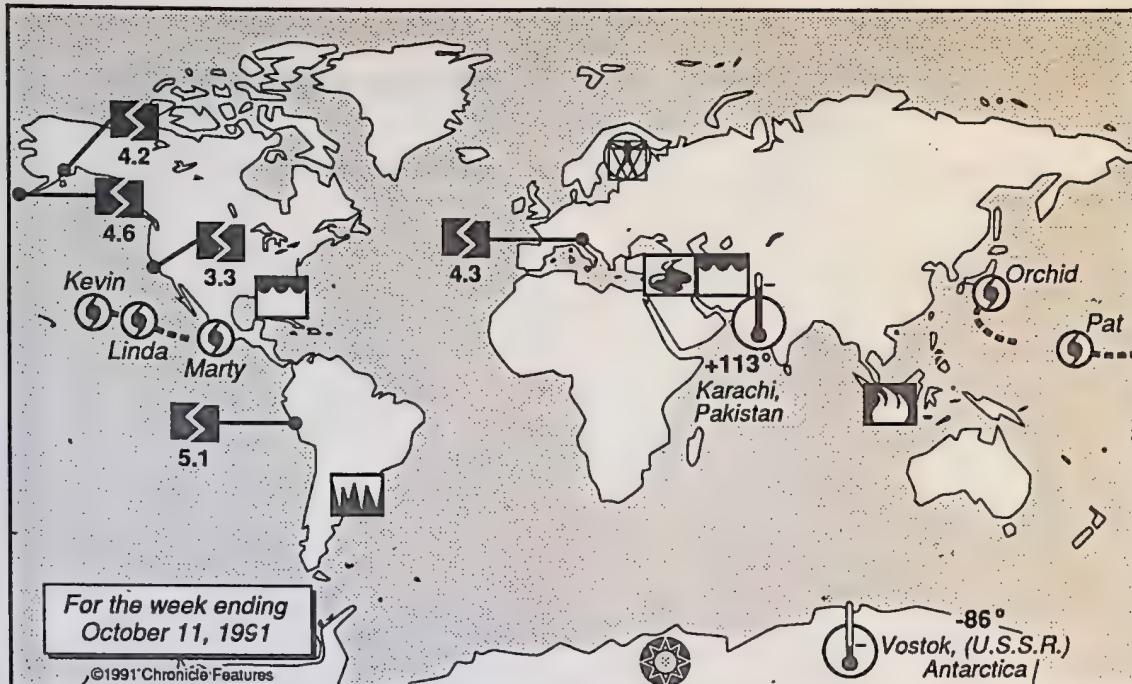
The Kuwaiti Oil Company's general manager for drilling and well operation announced that 85 percent of the country's burning oil wells have now been put out. Saoud Alnashmi said that 572 wells have been extinguished since the international firefighting efforts began in March. An average of nine wells is now being put out each day, a much faster rate than in the initial stages of the massive undertaking. Most of the wells still burning are in the north, where firefighting efforts began only last month.

New Ozone Hole

A severe hole in Earth's protective ozone layer above Antarctica has formed for the third year in a row, this time producing the lowest reading of ozone on record. Monitoring data from a special mapping instrument aboard the Nimbus-7 weather satellite show ozone levels there have dropped by about 35 percent since mid-August, and that the hole now encompasses about 8 million square miles of the frozen continent.

Snap Freeze

An unexpected spring freeze in Uruguay has killed many recently sheared sheep, and damaged budding fruit and vegetable crops. Thousands of sheep died in the north of the country, while the south lost almost its entire grape crop.

**Tropical Fires**

Western nations offered to help fight fires sweeping across Indonesia's tropical rain forests as officials warned that the blazes might spread. Smoke from the fires has shrouded Singapore, the Malay Peninsula, and other parts of Southeast Asia, including the South China Sea. Air and maritime transportation has been disrupted by the low visibility, and there has been a steep rise in reported cases of bronchial asthma, pneumonia, and sore eyes.

Earthquakes

A moderate quake sent hundreds of people rushing out of buildings in Lima as the 11-second tremor shook the Peruvian capital. No significant damage or injuries were reported.

Earth movements were also felt in northeastern Italy and parts of Yugoslavia, central California, the Aleutian Islands, and southern Alaska.

Floods

A stalled cold front brought several days of heavy rains to South Florida, where more than a foot of rainfall turned streets into rivers. In Iran, torrential rains left 11 people dead in Yasuj province, south of Tehran, and caused considerable damage to crops and livestock.

Tropical Storms

Yet another powerful typhoon was predicted to lash Japan late in the week. Packing winds of more than 80 miles per hour, Orchid was on a course that would take it along the eastern coast near Tokyo. Typhoon Pat, which formed in the warm Pacific waters northeast of Guam, may take a similar course toward Japan.

Hurricanes Kevin and Linda lost force over the open waters of the eastern Pacific. Hurricane Marty formed off the southwestern coast of Mexico.

Light Therapy

The Finnish government has undertaken a two-year study to find a treatment for darkness fatigue — a common winter disorder in high northern latitudes. Seemingly perpetual night, combined with bitter cold during December, January, and February, are known to affect about 15 percent of Scandinavians with episodes of personality changes and mood swings. In severe cases it can cause antisocial behavior or even suicide. Two thousand Finns have volunteered to be exposed to doses of light up to 20 times brighter than normal indoor lighting for an hour each day this winter. The \$3 million project will also investigate the relationship between light and other aspects of human health and welfare, such as the body's ability to fight diseases and heal itself.

Additional Sources: World Meteorological Organization, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, and the U.S. Earthquake Information Center.

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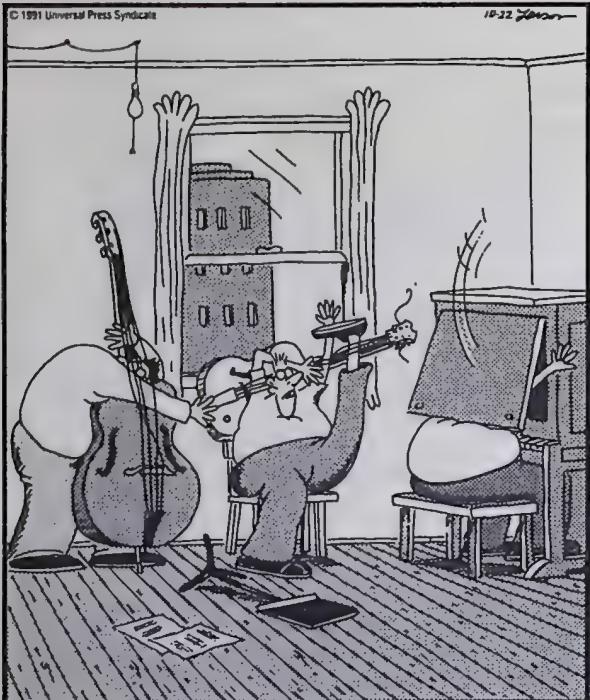
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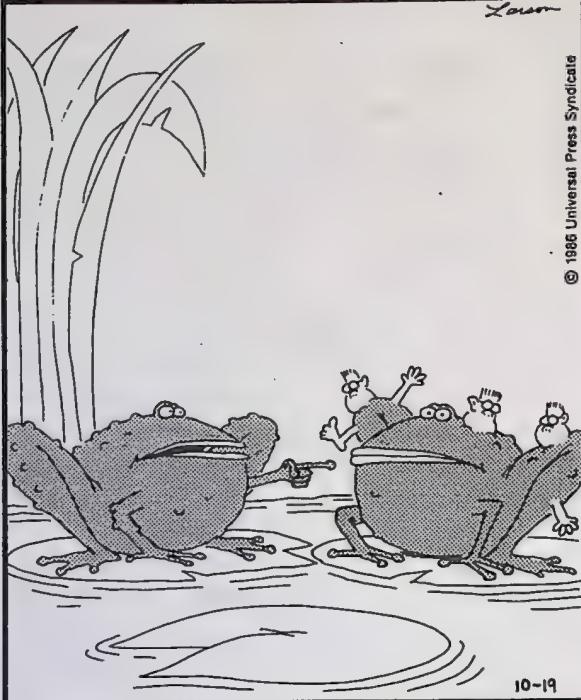
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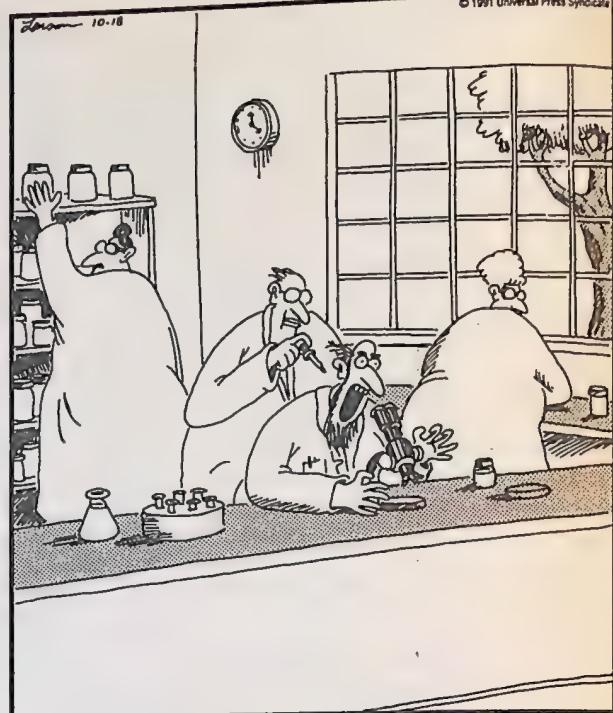
By GARY LARSON



Regrettably, the Labinski brothers had selected an apartment in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle of jam sessions.



"Wait a minute, Vince! Last summer — remember?
Some little kid caught you, handled you,
and tossed you back in the swamp. . . .
That's where you got 'em."



Professor Glickman, the lab practical joker, deftly places a single drop of hydrochloric acid on the back of Professor Bingham's neck.



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BEEF 1.40 **CHICKEN** 1.40
CHILI 1.40 **SAUSAGE** 1.40

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We take a flour tortilla, roll it around your choice of filling and cheddar cheese. It's then deep fried till golden brown, topped with enchilada sauce and lots of melted cheddar cheese.
BEAN 3.55 **REFRITO** 3.55
BEEF 3.65 **CHICKEN** 3.65
CHILI 3.65 **SAUSAGE** 3.65

ENCHILADAS

Two steamed soft corn tortillas wrapped around your choice of filling covered with enchilada sauce and topped with melted cheddar cheese
BEAN 3.25 **REFRITO** 3.25
BEEF 3.75 **CHICKEN** 3.75
CHILI 3.75 **SAUSAGE** 3.75
CHEDDAR 3.75
CHEDDAR & ONION 3.75
BEAN & CHEDDAR 3.75
BEEF & CHEDDAR 3.75
CHILI & CHEDDAR 3.75
REFRITO & CHEDDAR 3.75
CHICKEN & CHEDDAR 3.75
SAUSAGE & CHEDDAR 3.75
(1/2 order available at 1/2 price)

BURRITOS

A flour tortilla steamed soft, stuffed with your choice of filling, cheddar cheese and lettuce, then rolled up. Eat it like a sandwich
BEAN 2.10 **REFRITO** 2.10
BEEF 2.80 **CHICKEN** 2.80
CHILI 2.80 **SAUSAGE** 2.80
ALL COMBOS LIMIT TWO FILINGS 2.80

BURRITO SUPREMO

It's the same as a regular burrito except we top it with enchilada sauce and cheddar cheese
BEAN 3.25 **REFRITO** 3.25
BEEF 3.95 **CHICKEN** 3.95
CHILI 3.95 **SAUSAGE** 3.95
ALL COMBOS LIMIT TWO FILINGS 3.95

QUESADILLAS

MILD—A grilled flour tortilla topped with sweet peppers, onions, cheddar and monterey jack cheeses. Served with our special cheese sauce on the side. 3.35
HOT—A grilled flour tortilla topped with sliced jalapeno peppers, cheddar and monterey jack cheeses. Served with our special cheese sauce on the side. 3.35
MILD OR HOT...
WITH BEANS 3.55 **WITH REFRITOS** 3.55
WITH BEEF 3.75 **WITH CHICKEN** 3.75
WITH CHILI 3.75 **WITH SAUSAGE** 3.75

NACHOS

Basic—Lots of cheddar cheese melted on top of crispy corn tortilla chips 2.95

Nacho Platter—We take Basic Nachos and top them with all the extras. Beef, chicken, beans, refritos, sausage, chopped onions and tomatoes. Served with sour cream on the side. Great for a group to share. 4.45

TOSTADAS

A crispy flat corn tortilla topped with your choice of filling and melted cheddar cheese. Then piled high with shredded lettuce, chopped onions and tomatoes, sliced black olives, more cheddar cheese and sour cream
BEAN 2.85 **REFRITO** 2.85
BEEF 3.35 **CHICKEN** 3.35
CHILI 3.35 **SAUSAGE** 3.35
ALL COMBOS LIMIT TWO FILINGS 3.35

TAQUITOS

Two flour tortillas filled with your choice of filling and monterey jack cheese, deep fried then covered with ranchero sauce and melted cheddar cheese
BEAN 4.45 **REFRITO** 4.45
BEEF 4.85 **CHICKEN** 4.85
CHILI 4.85 **SAUSAGE** 4.85
(1/2 order available at 1/2 price)

MEXICAN PIZZA

A large crispy flour tortilla covered with pizza sauce, your choice of main topping and lots of mozzarella cheese. Diced tomatoes, onions, peppers and olives are available at no charge. We'll make it the way you want it
PLAIN 3.25
WITH BEAN 3.50 **WITH REFRITOS** 3.50
WITH BEEF 3.95 **WITH CHICKEN** 3.95
WITH CHILI 3.95 **WITH SAUSAGE** 3.95

PURRINGTON'S PIZZA

A friend of ours always gets his pizza this way and says we should put it on the menu, so here goes... It's made with mild hot sauce instead of pizza sauce and loaded with beef, diced peppers, onions, tomatoes, olives and extra mozzarella cheese. 4.35 (The other fillings are also available.)

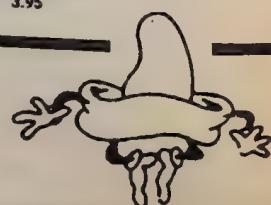
CHILI RELLENO

It's done the "Taco Villa Way". A little different but very good. We stuff a couple of tender mild green chiles with monterey jack cheese, wrap them with a flour tortilla and deep fry till golden brown. Topped with ranchero sauce and melted cheddar cheese. Served with rice. 3.95

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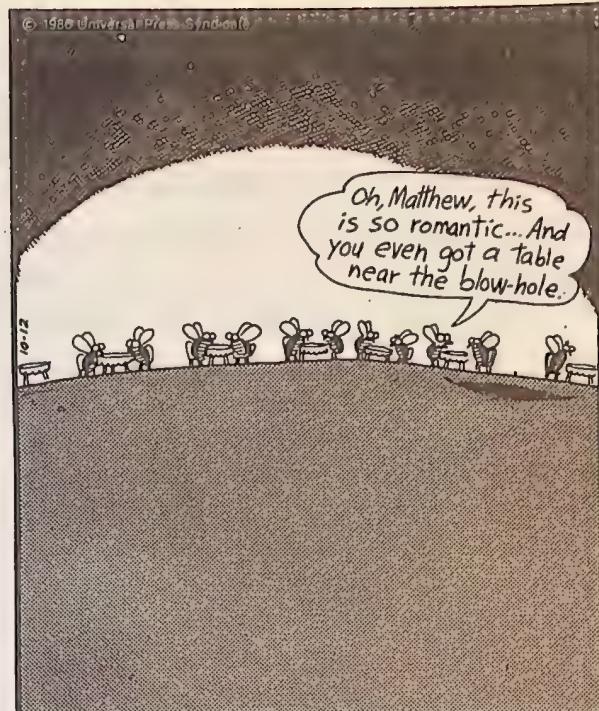




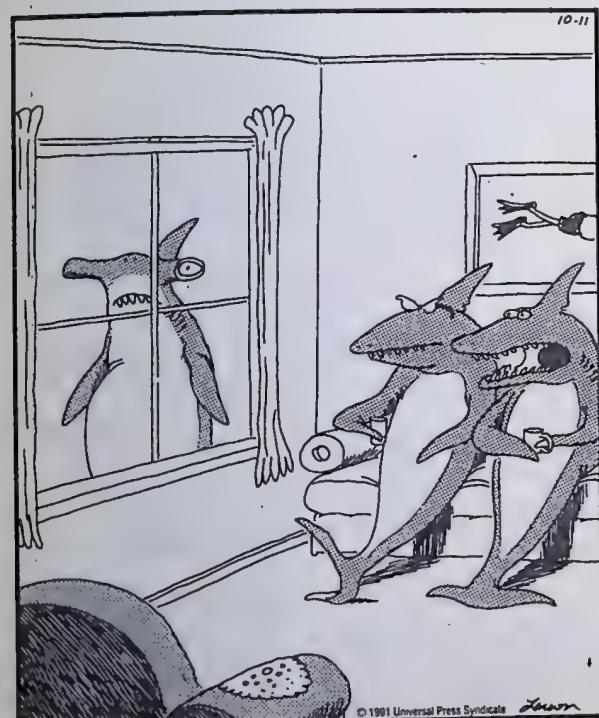
"You gotta help me, Mom. . . This assignment is due tomorrow, and Gramps doesn't understand the new tricks."



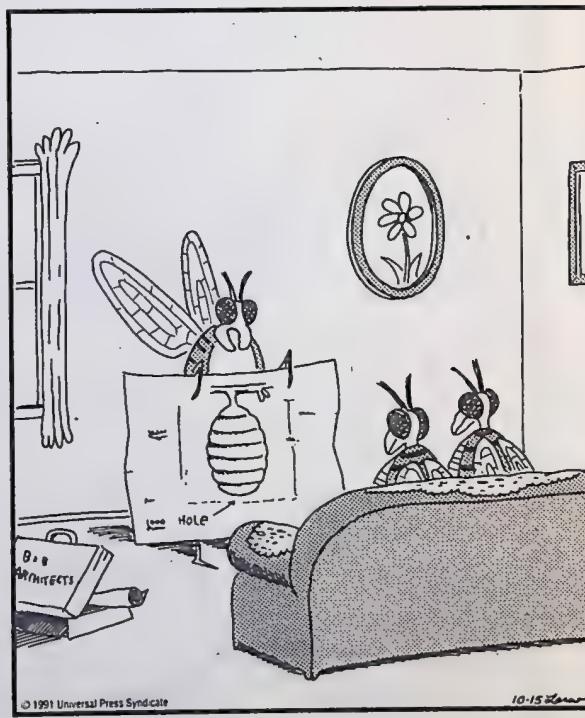
"OK, crybaby! You want the last soda?
Well, let me GET IT READY FOR YOU!"



Evening on a beached whale



"My marriage is in trouble, Barbara. You ever tried communicating with a hammerhead?"



"Voila! . . . Your new dream home! If you like it, I can get a crew mixing wood fibers and saliva as early as tomorrow."

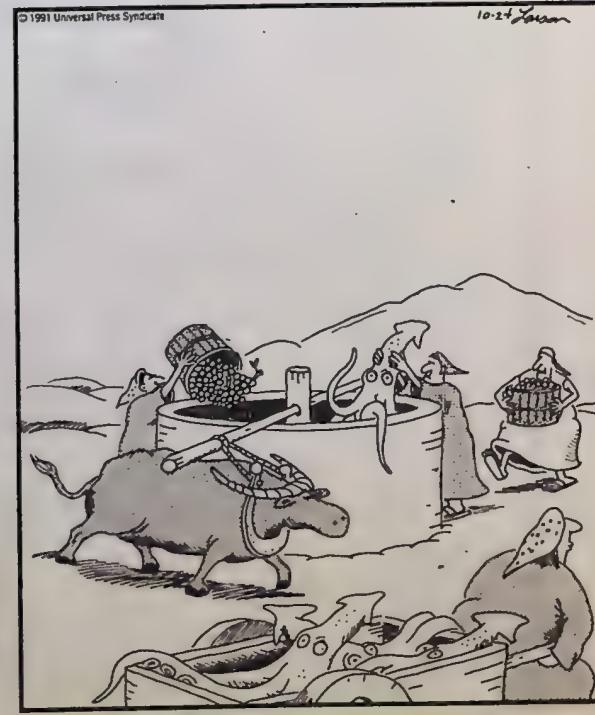


How Mr. Ed was made to talk



THE BIG ITCH

-Don't even think of scratching!



Where we get calamari blanc



My name's
not "Lassie."

LEOLD BY ROGER AND SALEM SALOON

The police and my neighbors have the wrong idea about me. They think I am taking things from them. They know I always return the bicycles and the lawn chairs. I am not a thief. I am a communist. My uncle, Petain, thinks I will outgrow this, but he is embarrassed by me.

I am not only a communist, I am also an illusionist. There are very few of us left. I know it is hopeless to discuss this with the police when they catch me running through the backyards with several lawn chairs at 3 am. I phoned my dad from the station and he said it made him vomit.

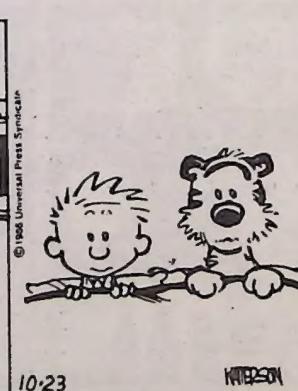
I don't believe him because I know he has a very strong stomach.



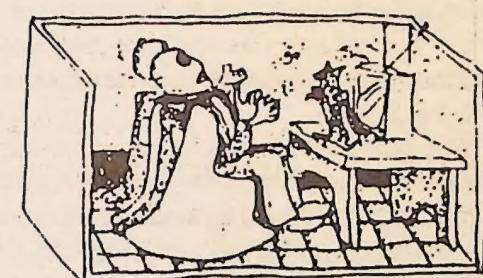
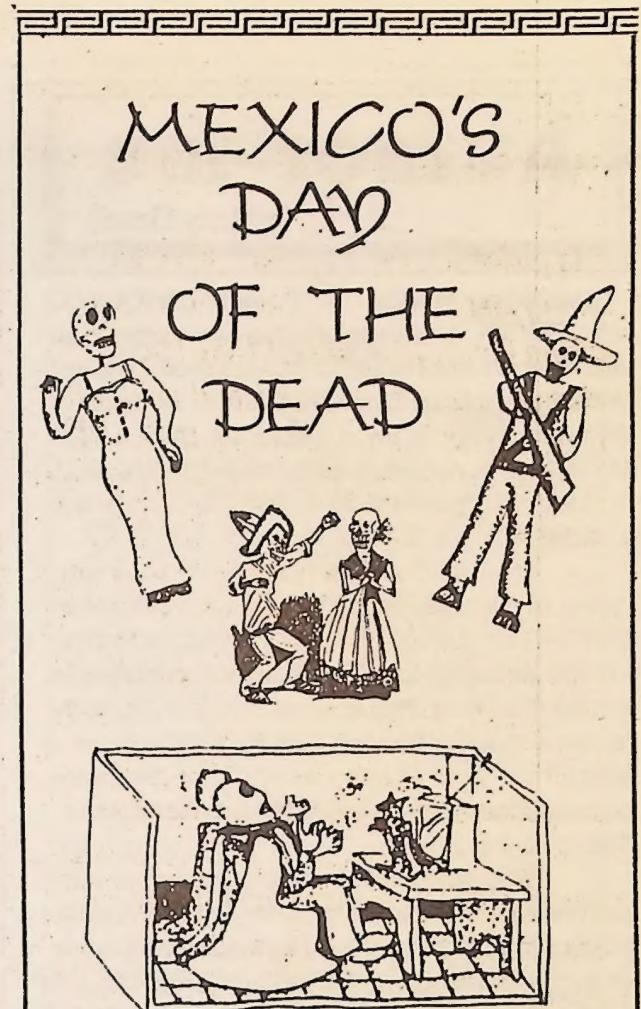
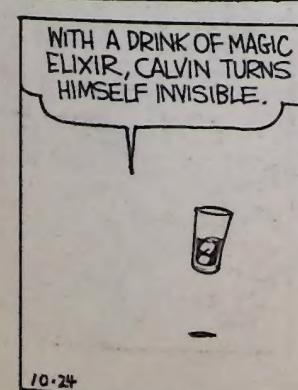
Calvin and Hobbes

by
BILL WATTERSON





THAT'S NOT WHAT HE SAID! HEY! YOU STOLE MY PILLOW! THIS LUMPY ONE IS YOURS!



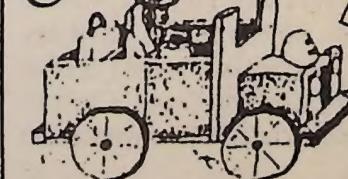
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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

One of my favorite TV shows is **UNSOLVED MYSTERIES**. Unfortunately, they never seem to go after the mysteries I would like to see solved. I decided to track down Sham Singh, the Sikh private detective who is in charge of investigations for **UNSOLVED MYSTERIES**. As he showed me around his laboratory he described a few of the more interesting cases he was working on:

Since the Cold War lasted for 45 years why, during all that time, didn't the Russians ever bomb us DURING a test of the Emergency Broadcast System. That would seem to have been the most opportune time to catch us napping. People would have paid absolutely no attention to the bombers over the country because after all the years of test warnings most Americans associated the siren with a signal to go to the bathroom. Sort of Pavlovian, no?

Who puts expired coupons on supermarket shelves and why? Neatly laid out and placed next to the product they promote, they tempt the unsuspecting shopper with a nanosecond of glee at having beaten the system. Teams of psychologists believe the perpetrator has a sadistic mind that garners satisfaction from seeing unsuspecting supermarket shoppers exult at the chance for extra money only to be routinely disappointed upon noticing the expiration date which is always yesterday. This person is certainly a "cereal" killer.

What makes TV marketers think that a big selling point for a record is that it is not sold in record stores? Or that the North American debut of Belgium's best selling ocarina player is a big deal?

Who is the person that specially selects those theaters near you and how are they chosen? Early evidence indicates that this man is married to the woman who suggests the retail prices that no one ever pays attention to. I imagine it must be very hard to constantly have your suggestions ignored by millions of people (unless you are a Democratic congressman). How did they get these jobs? What are their credentials? This couple probably goes out to the movies a lot to escape the pressure. I wouldn't be surprised if there was a conflict of interest here.

What cosmic forces are at work that enable you to watch one episode of a TV sitcom all year and then, if you catch the show during the summer, you always see the exact same episode you tuned into during the winter?

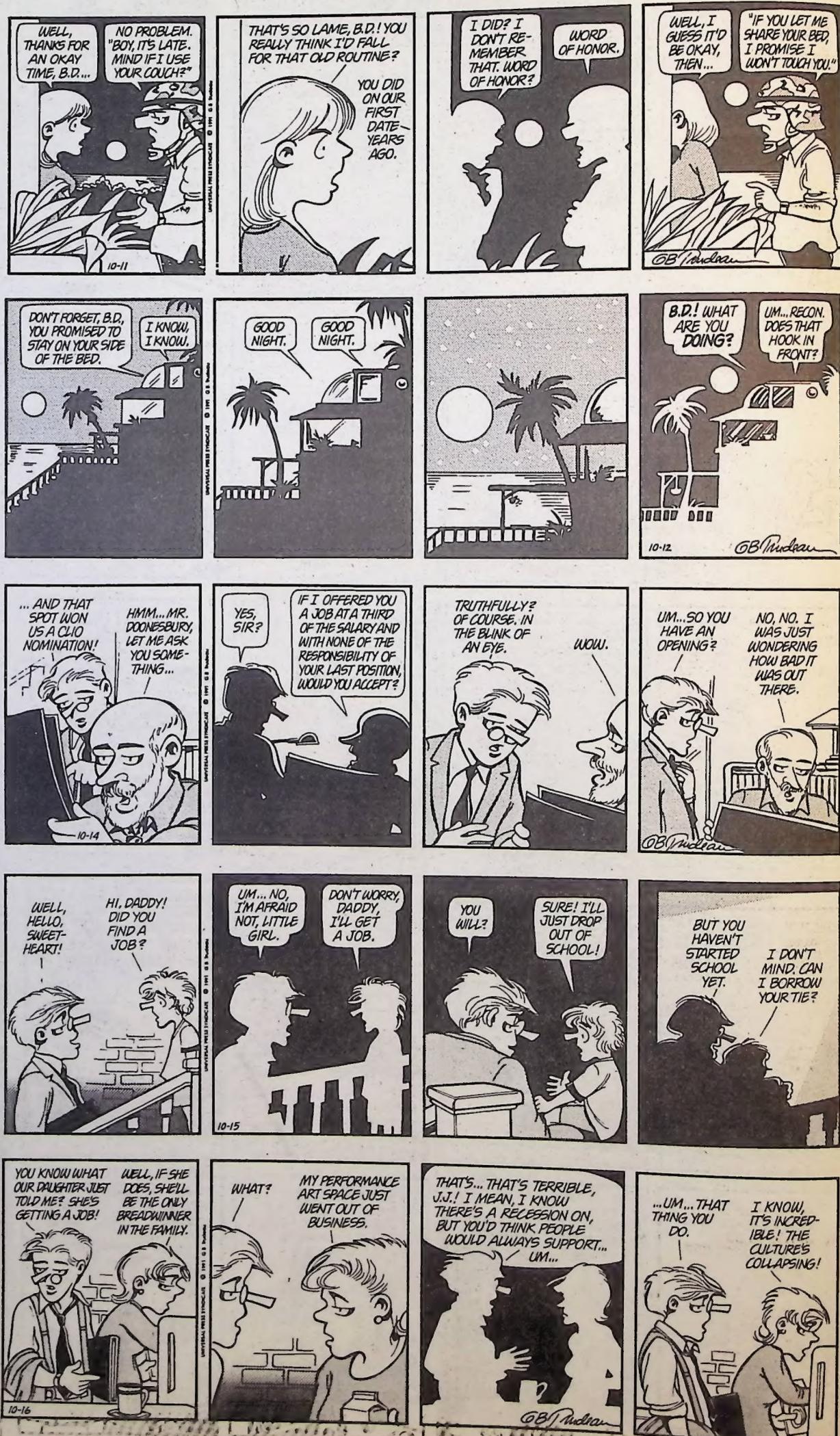
What language are instruction manuals for Japanese and Korean VCR's written in?

How do tornados always know where the trailerparks are? Could it have something to do with the curlers in the hair of the woman who is inevitably interviewed about the catastrophe? Should trailers have government warning labels on them? "Caution: Do not use a home permanent kit if the barometric pressure falls below 30."

Why is it that whoever drives slower than you is an idiot, yet anyone driving faster than you is a maniac?

Doonesbury

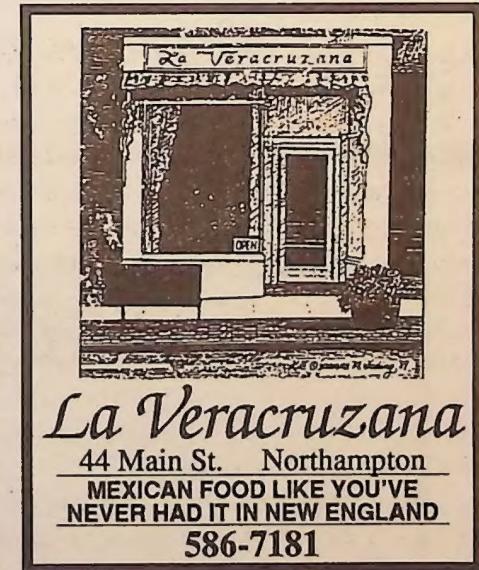
BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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